

TREASURE

OUR

connecticut

COASTS

and

ESTUARIES

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN A CONNECTICUT SUCCESS STORY. ALL ALONG THE COASTLINE, FROM GREENWICH TO STONINGTON, THERE HAS BEEN A RENAISSANCE OF URBAN WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS BEEN BOTH ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AND ECONOMICALLY BENEFICIAL TO COASTAL MUNICIPALITIES. AT THE SAME TIME, GREAT STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE IN GUARDING FRAGILE NATURAL RESOURCES, PRESERVING AND ENCOURAGING WATER DEPENDENT ACTIVITIES,

RESTORING ACRES OF WETLANDS, BEACHES AND BARRIER ISLANDS, AND IMPROVING MARINE LIFE. THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) PROVIDES THE FRAME-

WORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF THESE COASTAL AREAS. THIS LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS EACH STATE AND TERRITORY, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES THAT DEPEND ON COASTAL RESOURCES.

miles of coastline
618

coastal population in 2000
2,120,734

fy03 czma core (section 306)
funding
\$2,000,000

fy03 czma enhancements
(section 309) funding
\$179,000

fy03 coastal nonpoint
implementation
\$111,000

THE CZMA IN CONNECTICUT

The CZMA establishes programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level.

Connecticut Coastal Area Management Program

Approved: 1980

Lead Agency: Department of Environmental Protection

The Connecticut Coastal Areas Management Program works to protect and restore coastal habitat, reduce the flow of polluted runoff into coastal waters, redevelop urban waterfronts, manage harbors, and improve public access to coastal lands and waters. Led by the Office of Long Island Sound Programs, the coastal program provides a comprehensive framework for resource and land management at the state and local levels. The Program coordinates programs that have an impact on Long Island Sound, enforces standards for shoreline development, and provides funds for coastal wetlands restoration, research, public education, and local efforts to manage coastal resources.



The Connecticut Coastal Area Management Program accomplishments include:

- *restoring more than 1,700 acres of tidal wetlands since 1980;*
- *opening 22.5 miles of river for fish passage and spawning by removing 4 dams and adding 7 fish ladders;*
- *securing 13.5 miles of coastal access for the public, totaling 2% of the state's shoreline;*
- *ensuring that water dependent uses, such as marinas, docks, boat yards and public access sites, are given priority for waterfront sites;*
- *supporting the development of 16 harbor management plans, with another 5 underway;*
- *developing a Clean Marina Certification Program; and*
- *funding studies of sediment quality and dredge material management to plan for dredging in Long Island Sound.*

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

Like many states, Connecticut has sought creative ways to fund coastal management efforts. Through the coastal program's partnership with the Department of Motor Vehicles, Connecticut drivers who care about their state's coastal environment can purchase Long Island Sound license plates, with proceeds going to the Long Island Sound Fund. Since the beginning of the program, over 118,000 plates have been sold, raising more than \$4 million for projects to help restore the Sound and its habitats, foster educational opportunities, increase public access to the Sound, and conduct research. Schools, municipalities, environmental groups, and other non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for grants for projects that benefit Long Island Sound. The coastal program has also partnered with People's Bank to offer Long Island Sound credit cards where a percentage of the purchase amount is allocated to the Long Island Sound Fund.